

Message Text

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50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CPR-01 NIC-01 /052 W
----- 055917

P R 261330Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 801

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU

SUBJECT: DAVIS NOMINATION: MESSAGE FOR SYG ETEKI

REF: A. STATE 40694 B. NAIROBI 1644

1. TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER WAS DELIVERED BY DCM TO PERMSEC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS LYNCH-SHYLLON AFTERNOON FEB 25, FIRST DAY ANY SENIOR SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS OF MINISTRY (EXCEPT USUALLY UNINFORMED AND BOMBLING DEPUTY MINISTER) AVAILABLE AFTER SL DEL RETURN FROM OAU CONFERENCE IN ADDIS. IN PRESENTING TEXT, DCM SAID LETTER SPOKE FOR ITSELF BUT COMMENTED THAT AMBASSADOR SAMUELS HAD BEEN RATHER TAKEN ABACK BY APPARENT CONTRAST BETWEEN CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY WELCOME EXTENDED TO HIM BY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT AND TENOR OF GOT INFO SERVICE RELEASE FEB 20 IMPLYING THAT SL FONMIN LUKE HAD BEEN A LEADER IN EFFORT PROMOTING ADOPTION OF "CONSENSUSRESOLUTION." (REF B RECEIVED JUST PRIOR MEETING BUT KNOWLEDGE CONTENTS NOT ALLUDED TO BY DCM.)

2. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION LYNCH-SHYLLON MADE FOLLOWING COMMENT:

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A. LUKE WAS "ONE OF A NUMBER" OF FONMINS ENGAGED IN

PRESSING RES. HE LATER AMPLIFIED THIS TO SAY "FIVE OR SIX," WHOM HE DECLINED IDENTIFY, HAD URGED ADOPTION OF RES IN CAUCUS DISCUSSIONS;

B. SUPPORT OF RES "HAD NOTHING TO DO" WITH GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOSL;

C. RES, TEXT OF WHICH HE DID NOT HAVE AVAILABLE (AND WHICH EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED) SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT THAT USG HAD EVERY RIGHT NAME WHOEVER IT DESIRED TO POSITION AND THAT RES NOT TO BE CONSIDERED ATTEMPT INTERFERE IN USG'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS;

D "CONFERENCE," HOWEVER, CONSIDERED THAT APPOINTMENT OF "PERSON WITH MR. DAVIS' RECORD" MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN AFRICA AND US. REMINDED THAT ACTION APPARENTLY BASED ON LACK OF FULL INFORMATION AND THAT SECRETARY'S LETTER POINTED OUT MANY ASPECTS OF AMB DAVIS' OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL ACTIONS OF WHICH OAU COUNCIL MEMBERS MUST NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE, LYNCH-SHYLLON SAID DISCUSSION IN ADDIS WAS BASED ON "REPORT FROM WASHINGTON," SOURCE OF WHICH NOT REVEALED (BUT FROM IMPLICATION LATER COMMENT, MAY HAVE BEEN SL EMBASSY) WHICH STATED, INTER ALIA, THAT AMB DAVIS HAD PREVIOUS OSS EXPERIENCE AND HAD BEEN PROPOSED AS AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA (WITH IMPLICATION AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REFUSED);

E. IN MORE DEFENSIVE TONE, LYNCH-SHYLLON SAID THAT AS CAREER DIPLOMAT AND CIVIL SERVANT, HE HAD TOLD LUKE HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO VERIFY SUBSTANCE OF "REPORT FROM WASHINGTON" BEFORE MATTER PURSUED BUT THIS "WAS NOT POSSIBLE FROM ADDIS AND YOU KNOW HOW THINGS GET CARRIED AWAY IN ONE OF THESE CONFERENCES."

F. WHEN ASKED IF CONFERENCE HAD VOTED FORMALLY IN PLENARY ON RES, LYNCH-SHYLLON SURPRISINGLY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW BUT ASSUMED CONFERENCE "MUST HAVE" ADOPTED RES IN PLENARY AFTERNOON FEB 21 AFTER SL DEL DEPARTURE EARLIER THAT DAY FOR STOPS IN PARIS AND LONDON EN ROUTE FREETOWN.

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G. HE WOULD BRING TEXT SECRETARY'S LETTER TO ATTENTION FONMIN LUKE AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

3. I EXPECT IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO BE MAKING MY FIRST CALL ON LUKE, WHO HAS BEEN ABSENT SINCE BEFORE MY ARRIVAL. FOR PROTOCOL REASONS, CALL ON LUKE MUST NOW FOLLOW CALL BEING ARRANGED ON ACTING VICE PRESIDENT KAMARA-TAYLOR. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, I DO NOT PLAN TO INITIATE ANY FURTHER

DISCUSSION OF OAU RESOLUTION.

SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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